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Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Report of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues

Submitted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development

Summary

The 2006 meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, held in Rome from 15 to 18 September 2006, was hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The theme of the meeting was "Development with identity" with three sub-items: (a) Indigenous lands, territories and natural resources; (b) Indigenous peoples and technology development/adoption; and (c) Indigenous culture and development. The Support Group shared information and discussed the three items with a view to contributing to the special theme of the sixth session of the Forum, "Indigenous lands, territories and natural resources". Participants in the meeting also reviewed the progress and challenges in implementing the recommendations of the Forum and explored ways to strengthen the cooperation among United Nations agencies at the national level in the context of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other development processes. Recommendations were made, mostly to agencies, on assisting country and regional offices to work on indigenous issues.

* E/C.19/2007/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The 2006 meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, held in Rome from 15 to 18 September 2006, was convened and hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in accordance with the practice established in 2002 of annually rotating the chairmanship of the Support Group among its members. The theme of the meeting was "Development with identity", with the following sub-items:

(a) Indigenous lands, territories and resources;

(b) Indigenous peoples and technology development/adoption;

(c) Indigenous culture and development.

2. Representatives of the following United Nations agencies, multilateral organizations and international financial organizations participated: the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Land Coalition, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Plant Genetics Resources Institute (IPGRI), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Bank.

3. The following Permanent Forum members also participated in the meeting:

- Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chair
- Otilia Lux de Coti, member
- Ida Nicolaisen, member
- Michael Dodson, member

4. The present report highlights the main issues discussed and the agreements reached among the participants for follow-up. The agreements reached could be grouped under the following headings:

(a) suggested areas for general focus;

(b) suggestions for country teams;

(c) agreements for joint activities.

5. The opening session was opened by the President of IFAD, Lennart Båge. Several members of senior management team of IFAD (Kevin Cleaver, Assistant President, Programme Management Department; Phrang Roy, Assistant President, Indigenous Issues; and Matthew Wyatt, Assistant President, External Affairs Department) were present at the opening session and actively participated in co-chairing some sessions of the meeting.

6. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, addressed the meeting via videoconference. Participants also had

the occasion to visit an exhibit on "An unknown India — arts and living tradition" displaying art and handicrafts of the tribal people of India, the Adivasis, especially organized by IFAD in connection with the meeting of the Support Group.

7. During the meeting, a panel on information on the ongoing work on indicators and indigenous peoples was also organized. No specific recommendations were made in this regard, but the members of the Support Group agreed to pursue information-sharing and that the secretariat of the Forum would organize a side event on the topic at the sixth session of the Forum.

8. The members of the Support Group thanked IFAD for the substantive nature and high quality of the meeting as well as for the efficient and friendly organizational arrangements.

II. Recommendations and suggestions

A. Suggested areas for general focus

9. It was agreed that the members of the Support Group should review their policies and other instruments regarding indigenous peoples from the perspective of the framework of the adopted Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the Human Rights Council in June 2006, so that all policies, programmes, projects, other instruments and activities, including the application of the human rights-based approach to development, are consistent with the Declaration.

10. While discussing the theme of "Development with identity" in the context of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant international instruments, all members of the Support Group strongly acknowledged that culture must be the driving force of a development approach that is meaningful to indigenous peoples. It was also acknowledged by all members that as the fruitful diversity of cultures is promoted, the fundamental element of languages and the importance of knowledge transmission through intergenerational dialogue should be recognized. In this respect, the members felt that all multilateral and bilateral agencies should pay attention to local processes and that indigenous elders, youth and children must receive priority attention.

11. It was therefore agreed to:

(a) Sensitize the staff of the member bodies of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues application of the principles of cultural diversity, as agreed upon in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001) and the related conventions,[1] in their work with indigenous peoples;

(b) Explore the possibility of using existing tools, approaches and instruments developed by different agencies (including UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF) to mainstream cultural diversity principles in policy and programming, articulating the linkages with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

[1] Notably the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972).

and other relevant international instruments. UNESCO and UNFPA were invited to follow up in collaboration with interested members.

12. While discussing indigenous peoples' knowledge systems and technologies, it was stated that technology essentially concerns ways in which social groups provide themselves with material objects of their culture and world views. It was therefore agreed that:

(a) Indigenous peoples' knowledge systems and related local processes are crucial for technology generation. There should be a better understanding of their governance aspects, of indigenous experts and of the need to raise the consciousness of the indigenous peoples about their own accumulated knowledge and expertise;

(b) Ways in which technology could be used to protect and promote the identity of indigenous peoples must be identified.

13. It was also agreed that relevant multilateral agencies such as IADB, FAO, IFAD and the World Bank should encourage the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research to interact with the Permanent Forum so that in its efforts on technology generation, the distinct needs of indigenous peoples are taken into account. In this regard, it was suggested that IFAD:

(a) Take the lead in this process and seek the assistance of FAO in placing the subject on the agenda of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and ensuring that the Permanent Forum is invited to participate in their meetings;

(b) Facilitate the establishment of a small working group of international financial institutions to initiate a scoping exercise of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research research programmes of relevance to indigenous peoples' knowledge systems and technology to identify possibilities for collaborative work in this regard;

(c) Work closely with the World Bank and interested members of the Consultative Group, in collaboration with the Permanent Forum, to organize a side event on technology and indigenous peoples at the sixth session of the Forum.

14. The meeting was briefed about some interesting information and communication technology initiatives by UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP and others. It was also noted that more efforts should be mad to share experiences on initiatives related to information and communication technology.

15. The Support Group recommends that the relevant agencies, working in collaboration with indigenous peoples' organizations, use communication technologies in their programmes, especially those concerning education and communication, to promote knowledge transmission and, in particular, to create increased opportunities for indigenous youth.

16. The Support Group also recommends that members of the Group identify and share successful practices by which Governments have promoted enabling environments for indigenous issues and report to the Permanent Forum so that it might apply those practices to its advocacy work.

17. The members of the Support Group were urged to promote the activities of young indigenous entrepreneurs at the country level, with the aim of encouraging indigenous enterprises and wider ripple effects.

18. The meeting noted that development activities, including those carried out by multilateral and bilateral agencies, can sometimes unwittingly dispossess indigenous peoples from their lands and territories. Each member should monitor its own activities to prevent such situations. The Support Group suggested that members take up this issue with their country teams.

19. It was recognized that there is a need to develop a briefing note for the staff of members of the Support Group on the relationship between protecting and promoting cultural diversity and protecting and promoting indigenous peoples' rights and dignity. UNESCO was invited to coordinate this initiative.

B. Suggestions for United Nations country teams

20. At the meeting, it was strongly recommended that mechanisms be developed at the country level to give indigenous peoples a greater sense of ownership of intergovernmental organizations and their activities and enable their full participation in activities affecting them.

21. The Support Group took note of the pilot project being implemented in Ecuador, Bolivia, Guatemala and Kenya as part of the joint UNDP/OHCHR Human Rights Strengthening Programme, which aims to establish a country-level mechanism for indigenous participation in the planning of United Nations country programmes. It was suggested that further efforts need to be made to create similar mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and the participation of indigenous peoples in the United Nations system, international financial institutions and the decision-making bodies of other multilateral institutions and in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects affecting them. Such mechanisms would permit indigenous peoples to contribute to the formulation of common country assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, Millennium Development Goals initiatives and the Programme of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

22. The country and regional offices of most intergovernmental institutions do not generally have indigenous persons among their staff. There is a need to find ways to apply more flexible recruitment processes to encourage and ensure a greater representation of indigenous professionals in the staffing of their country and regional offices.

23. Similarly, there is a need to sensitize the country and regional teams of intergovernmental institutions to the priorities, concerns and cultures of indigenous peoples and to provide them with training on existing international and regional standards, policies and recommendations of the Permanent Forum. Human rights advisers should be encouraged to mainstream indigenous peoples' issues into their work.

24. The members of the Support Group and the member States of the Permanent Forum should respond to the call of indigenous peoples for dialogue with intergovernmental organizations on key issues concerning them. United Nations country teams are encouraged to support these efforts.

25. Culturally sensitive approaches to human rights training should be promoted, especially by analysing how materials, modules and processes used to train staff in

the human rights-based approach adequately take into account the cultural diversity approach.

26. Information on indigenous cultures and languages should be included in the briefing modules for new staff of intergovernmental organizations.

27. Drawing on the experience of the indigenous fellowship programmes implemented by OHCHR, ILO, UNESCO, WIPO, UNITAR and other United Nations agencies, the members of the Support Group were urged to further develop and expand the training of indigenous peoples to help them become familiar with relevant international and regional standards, policies and programmes. The purpose of the training is to give indigenous peoples the skills and knowledge to be able to participate more effectively in the work of intergovernmental organizations and to provide their staff with direct experiences and indigenous perspectives.

28. The Support Group recommends that the Permanent Forum engage the World Food Programme (WFP) in a dialogue on the sociocultural aspects of food production, distribution and consumption as well as the impact of food aid on the food security of indigenous communities and their development with identity.

29. The Support Group also recommends that the Permanent Forum engage the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in exploring how peacekeeping missions and operations can play a role in promoting and protecting the rights and cultural identity of indigenous peoples.

C. Agreements for joint activities for the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues

30. The Support Group agrees to hold, on an exceptional basis, a meeting to consider appropriate ways of promoting, disseminating and implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, once it is adopted by the General Assembly. It was suggested that OHCHR and ILO organize the meeting prior to the sixth session of the Permanent Forum, should such a meeting be held by the Support Group.

31. The Support Group urges its members to compile the different policies, conventions, declarations and other instruments of the relevant organizations concerning lands, resources and territories, in order to identify the common elements and possible gaps. This should include information on how the different bodies have pursued the relevant provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples even in cases when they have not adopted a formal policy. A synthesis document will be prepared by the Support Group and submitted to the Permanent Forum at the May 2007 session. ILO will coordinate this activity.

32. The members of the Support Group were invited to map out their own programmes and projects related to lands, territories and resources in order to identify commonalities of issues so that synergies could be established for joint policy dialogue.

33. UNESCO and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum were invited to work together to establish a small working group of interested members of the Support Group to prepare a paper on the notion of development with identity for indigenous peoples based on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UNESCO

Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.

34. The Inter-American Development Bank, UNESCO, UNDP and IFAD were invited to explore the idea of assessing cultural mapping supported by the Support Group in order to share lessons learned, identify gaps and avoid duplication of efforts in the generation of methodologies. This will include a continued assessment, taking a critical look at the risks and opportunities from the perspective of indigenous communities.

35. The members of the Support Group were invited to continue supporting the development of training kits to sensitize staff of the United Nations system, multilateral organizations and international financial institutions, in particular at the country level.

36. The members of the Support Group were invited to be more proactive in pooling and seeking funds for indigenous peoples' programmes. For example, IFAD could explore how members of the Support Group could effectively promote the concept of indigenous peoples' innovation through its Innovation Mainstreaming Initiative.

37. The members of the Support Group should explore ways to promote exchange visits of indigenous peoples to other successful initiatives. Ideas for exchanges should be encouraged and IFAD will coordinate this work.

38. The Support Group welcomed the decision of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), at its July 2006 session, inviting the Group to provide support and guidance for the mainstreaming and integration of indigenous peoples' issues in United Nations operational activities and agreed to carry out this work in consultation with the UNDG Programme Group. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum will facilitate the process. ILO was invited to provide draft revised terms of reference for the Support Group; the revised terms of reference will also comprise proposals for including selected civil society organizations in participating in relevant meetings of the of the Group. Criteria for selecting these organizations will be developed.

39. The Support Group recommended that its 2007 meeting be held in Montreal, Canada, at the headquarters of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Annex

Programme of the meeting

Friday, 15 September 2006

Opening session

Chair: Phrang Roy, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- Welcome address by Lennart Båge, President of IFAD
- Introductory remarks by Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Introductory remarks by Elissavet Stamatopoulou, Chief, secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Session 1: Indigenous culture and development

Co-Chairs: Susanne Schnuttgen, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Anna Lucia D'Emilio, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Presentations by agencies

- "Cultura y pueblos indígena", Roberto Haudry de-Souci, Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, IFAD
- "Development with identity — indigenous culture: UNESCO's experience and good practices", Susanne Schnuttgen, Programme Specialist, Pluralism and Intercultural Dialogue Section, UNESCO
- "Towards a holistic approach to culturally sensitive development", Anna Lucia D'Emilio, Programme Specialist, Pluralism and Intercultural Dialogue Section, UNICEF, Venezuela
- "Cultural approaches to reproductive rights of indigenous peoples", Luz Angela Melo, Human Rights Adviser, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

– Discussion

– Wrap-up and identification of areas for further in-depth discussion, Roberto Haudry de-Souci, Country Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, IFAD;

Lee Swepston, Senior Adviser on Human Rights, Standard and Fundamental Principles and Rights Sector, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Session 2: Indigenous lands, territories and natural resources

Co-Chairs: Matthew Wyatt, Assistant President, External Affairs Department, IFAD; Anne Deruyttere, Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Community Development Unit, Inter-American Development Bank

Presentations by agencies

- "Indigenous territories: challenges for consolidation and sustainable development with identity", Anne Deruyttere, IADB
- "Working at the boundaries: the International Land Coalition's engagement with the land rights of indigenous peoples and their neighbours", Bruce Moore, Director, International Land Coalition
- "Land rights of indigenous and tribal peoples — recent development in ILO supervision", Swepston, ILO
- "Indigenous lands, territories and resources: the UNITAR training programme on conflict prevention and peacebuilding", Trisha Riedy, Senior Coordinator, Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy, UNITAR
- "Indigenous lands, territories and resources: the role of the Declaration", Julian Burger, Coordinator, Indigenous and Minorities Unit, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- "Lands, territories and resources: UNDP experiences from the Asia-Pacific", Chandra Roy, Regional Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

– Discussion

– Wrap-up and identification of areas for further in-depth discussion, Mohamed Manssouri, Country Programme Manager, Western and Central Africa Division, IFAD; and Julian Burger, OHCHR

– Address by José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (via videoconference)

Session 3: Indigenous peoples and technology development/adoption

Co-Chairs: Kevin Cleaver, Assistant President, Programme Management Department, IFAD
Lee Swepston, ILO

Presentations by agencies

- "Globally important agricultural heritage systems: extent, significance and implications for development", Thomas Price, Senior Programme Officer and Focal Point for Indigenous Peoples; and Mary Jane Dela Cruz, Consultant, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- "What's so smart about technology?", Rudolph Cleveringa, Technical Adviser, Technical Advisory Division, IFAD
- "Developing and enhancing bio-intensive technology by indigenous peoples and traditional communities", Pablo Eyzaguirre, Senior Scientist, Diversity for Livelihoods Programme, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)

– Discussion

- Wrap-up and identification of areas for further in-depth discussion, Alessandro Meschinelli, Research Analyst, Technical Advisory Division, IFAD; and Thomas Price, IPGRI
- Conclusions of the first day by Isabel Lavadenz, Director, Latin American and the Caribbean Division, IFAD

Saturday, 16 September 2006

Session 1: In-depth discussion on theme 1: indigenous lands, territories and natural resources and suggestions for follow-up by agencies

Co-Chairs: Ida Agnes Nicolaisen, Member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Navin Rai, Lead Social Development Specialist and Indigenous Peoples Coordinator, World Bank

- Summary of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on theme 1: indigenous lands, territories and natural resources; Elissavet Stamatopoulou
- Presentation on "Indigenous peoples' lands, territories and resources: the challenge of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", Victoria Tauli-Corpuz
- Feedback from members of the Permanent Forum on the first day presentations on theme 1: indigenous lands, territories and resources
- Discussion
- Wrap-up on session 1 by the co-Chairs

Session 2: In-depth discussion on theme 2: indigenous peoples and technology development/adoption and suggestions for follow-up by agencies

Co-Chairs: Michael Dodson, member of the Permanent Forum (Australia)
Simon Legrand, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- Presentation on "Indigenous peoples and technology development in Asia and the Pacific", Ganesh Thapa, Regional Economist, Asia and the Pacific Division, IFAD
- Summary of the Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on theme 2: indigenous peoples and technology development/adoption; Elissavet Stamatopoulou
- Feedback from the members of the Permanent Forum on the first day presentations on theme 2: indigenous peoples and technology development/adoption
- Discussion
- Wrap-up session by the co-Chairs

Sunday, 17 September 2006

Session 1: In-depth discussion on theme 3: indigenous culture and development and suggestions for agencies' follow-up

Co-Chairs: Otilia Lux de Coti, Member of the Permanent Forum (Guatemala)
Susanne Schnuttgen, UNESCO

- Summary of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on theme 3: indigenous culture; Elissavet Stamatopoulou
- Feedback from the members of the Permanent Forum on the first day presentations on theme 3: indigenous culture
- Discussion
- Wrap-up session by the co-Chairs
- Wrap-up of in-depth discussions on the three themes, Phrang Roy

Session 2: Follow-up activities on the three themes and partnership-building for implementation

Co-Chairs: Victoria Tauli-Corpuz
Anna Lucia D'Emilio

- Discussion on follow-up activities on the three themes and partnership-building for implementation

Session 3: Panel discussion on sharing information on the work being carried out on indigenous people's specific indicators

Co-Chairs: Caroline Heider, Deputy Director, Office of Evaluation, IFAD
Eve Crowley, Senior Officer, FAO

- Presentation on "Cultural indicators of indigenous peoples' food and agro-ecological systems", Eve Crowley, Senior Officer, FAO
- Discussion and wrap-up

Monday, 18 September 2006

Session 1: Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues: housekeeping matters

Co-Chairs: Phrang Roy
Julian Burger

- Open discussion

Suggested topics for discussion

- Keeping in mind the comparative advantage of each agency, how could we support each other in implementing the Programme of Action for the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People?
- Is there a scope for an expanded Support Group to include selected civil society organizations?

- Should the Support Group become the working group to carry out the tasks identified by the United Nations Development Group to mainstream indigenous issues at regional and country level? If so, what would the modalities of operation be?

- Information-sharing and follow-up on the recommendations of the 2005 IASG meeting (E/C.19/2006/3, paras. 13, 21, 30, 34 and 41).